



## President's Corner

In our first use of the [Ham Club Online](#) voting system, we distributed a survey via email to gauge member interest in holding a Christmas Party in 2023. We had not held one since 2019 due to the COVID Pandemic.

Voting remains open through November 13th, so you may still have time to have your voice heard. Results will be announced at the November meeting. We can discuss whether to return to Mary's Pizza Shack or choose another location at that time if there is enough interest reported.

And now that you've had an opportunity to see what electronic voting is like, it's time to use those skills to vote for your VOMARC 2024 officers! You can see the current slate of club officers at the end of this newsletter and on the [club's officers page](#). I encourage everyone to step up and run for an office, especially the one I currently hold!

We'll start with nominations for each of the current officers and will accept others via email if you do not want to bring this up at the meeting. During actual voting, write-in candidates will also be allowed. Results will be announced in the December newsletter.

There may never be a better time to get your HF station on the air than now. The solar maximum

of [Cycle 25 will arrive sooner and last longer than originally expected](#), according to a recent report. This would be fantastic news if it comes to pass. I've worked a number of new band and mode countries and even a couple of all time new ones (ATNO).

At the end of the day it's all about getting on the air and using your radios to make connections whether across town or around the world. That's what we're all here for.

—By Robert KA5WSS

### NEXT MEETING

Wed, **November 15, 2023** at 7:30 PM  
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed  
later

**Topic:** Islands on the Air (IOTA) Program

## Minutes of the October 18, 2023 Meeting

**ATTENDANCE:** KA5WSS (Robert), W1EJ (Ed), KG6QNT (Eileen), KD6FIL (Dave), KM6URP (Kathy), W8EWL (John), NJ6E (Stan), N7PIB (Sanford), WA6VAG (Chuck)

### BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

#### OFFICER REPORTS

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** - Eileen, KG6QNT

**ACS LEAD** - Dave, KD6FIL reporting

Leadership meeting on Monday (23rd).

ALE radio installation not yet finished.

**VE LIAISON** - Elizabeth, N6LY

Upcoming tests: Oct 28

Reservations required. Probably 10 max.

**RADIO OFFICER** - Mike, WB6TMH

Weekly Net Control

This month - John, W8EWL

Next month - Mike, WB6TMH

**TRUSTEE** - Darrel, WD6BOR

**SECRETARY/TREASURER** - Dave, KD6FIL

\$3788 bank balance

Need to pay for last months picnic

**VICE PRESIDENT** - Ed, W1EJ

Will be at Pacificon on Saturday

**PRESIDENT** - Robert, KA5WSS

Now using HamClubOnline HCOL for:

Email blasts/newsletters

Membership renewals

Elections

Christmas Party? - Dec. 20th - Voting via HCOL.

Look for it.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next month's meeting topic: TBD

Mystery Box drawing - Joe (N7TSQ) has it.

## **MEETING TOPIC - RF SAFETY RULES**

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## **VE Liaison News**

—By Elizabeth N6LY

We had our last testing session of the year, on October 29, 2023.

We had one candidate testing for his General License.

Welcome new member Norm Brod.

I haven't set up next year's schedule yet.

Expected dates will be the last Saturday in January, July, and October and during our HamFest in April.

Date should be announced in our December newsletter.

Congrats to all who tested this year and obtained a new license or upgraded.

Thank you.

## **POTA Fun**

Unfortunately, I haven't activated any new parks lately, however I am working on second Kilos in a few and now have decided to try for a Kilo at Jack London State Park.

On December 1st, we were approved for our third annual POTA activation trip to Alcatraz Island. Hopefully, it will turn out to be a nice day and we will hear from some of you on the air.

We will most likely be set up from 9 AM - 2 PM and will start on 40M, 20M, then 17M.

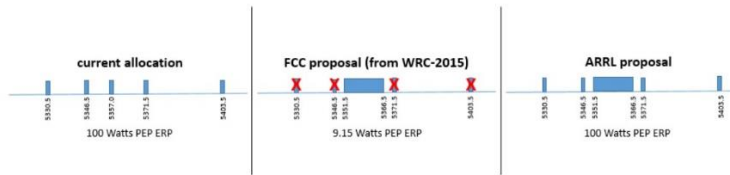
—Submitted by Liz N6LY

## **60M Proposal Comment Period Extended**

The Federal Communications Commission has [extended the deadline for filing comments on proposed changes to the Amateur Radio 60M \(5 MHz\) band](#). The new deadline is November 28th.

The FCC is proposing doing away with the current five 60M channels and adopting a 15 kHz wide non-channelized band. But, it also includes a reduction in power output from 100 watts to about 9 watts. The ARRL is proposing adding the

15 kHz segment to the existing channels but keeping the 100 watt power limit.



Canada has already enacted 60M band plans that mirror the ARRL proposal. Please be sure to send in your comments to the FCC to make our voices heard! Just [submit an express comment](#) by filling out a few fields and do so before November 28th.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## FCC PONDERING DOING AWAY WITH BAUD RATE

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering doing away with baud rate limitations and adopting restrictions based on bandwidth alone. The current rules limit digital communications on most HF bands to 300 baud. This limitation was first put into place in 1980. A lot has changed since then.

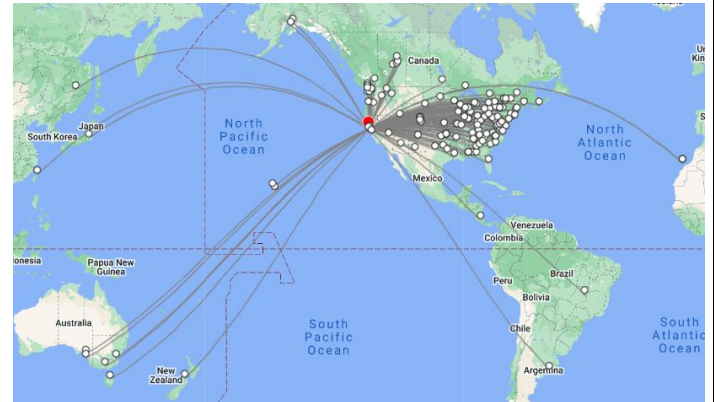
It is now a common occurrence after major disasters that the [American Radio Relay League](#) (ARRL) has to approach the FCC to request a temporary waiver of the symbol rate or baud limitations for HF communications. The waiver allows Hams to use more modern digital tools to quickly and accurately pass emergency and health and welfare traffic into and out of the affected areas.

The FCC may propose a rule change during their November 15th meeting. Stay tuned.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## On The Air

- **Darrel (WD6BOR)** got his 80M Windom antenna back up.
- Using just 2/10ths of a watt, **Stan's (NJ6E)** 20M-10M [WSPR](#) station has started to receive plenty of reports around the world.



- **Robert (KA5WSS)** made 67 QSOs in the [JARTS RTTY Contest](#).
- **Sanford** has worked at least 3,252 parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.
- **Robert (KA5WSS)** made 100 QSOs in the [CQ WW Phone Contest](#). This included 61 band countries and 44 band zones. Carl (N6TTV) also searched and pounced for stations.
- **Stan (NJ6E)** is putting together a [µBITX HF transceiver](#) that he purchased at Pacificon.
- **Allen (KM6QJC)** is sporting a new antenna for his HT. The new setup resulted in a significantly stronger signal when checking into the VOMARC Breakfast Net.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

# Trading Post

From **Frank (KG6N)**, here is the first round of surplus Ham Radio gear he's looking to sell. If you'd like to get in touch with him send us a note and we'll forward your contact info.

- [Yaesu ft-5100](#) vhf/uhf dual recvr with mic, manual, box, works good \$150
- [Icom ic-208h](#) dual bander with mic- works good \$200
- HealthKit an-1400 had xcvr with mic, manual, matching speaker and power supply-works good \$300
- [Kenwood ts-140](#) with mic-works good \$300
- [Yaesu ft-1900](#) tech special, no mic, has box, best offer.

I've got a TON of peripherals I'll get a list of soon.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Ham Lingo

From the ARRL Contest newsletter:

### Exchange

The information that must be sent, received, and logged by each station participating in a contact. Exchanges may be non-varying, such as your signal report and state (59 WA), or they may contain a fragment of information that changes from contact to contact. An example of a varying exchange is the use of a serial number in each contact.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## Misc

- During the October meeting we discussed RF Exposure calculations and used the [ARRL RF Exposure Calculator](#) to calculate minimum safe distances. To factor in feedline loss we used [CO8TW's Coax Calculator](#).
- China has built an [antenna system larger than the City of New York](#).
- Physicists have created a new kind of [antenna that uses a bulb of atomic vapor and laser beams](#). Another new antenna design

uses what amounts to an [inflatable balloon as a parabolic antenna](#).

- [Starlink satellites are "leaking" radio signals](#), making life more difficult for radio astronomers.
- The [search for extraterrestrial intelligence is making use of new, lower radio frequencies](#).
- An online [Lorum ipsum generator](#) has the option of spitting out random Morse Code.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

## USS Potomac Visit

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

On November 4, 2023, Penny and I visited the [USS Potomac](#) and sailed around San Francisco Bay in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's yacht. Known as the floating White House, it is an historic landmark docked in Oakland, California.

What makes this trip radio-related is the fact that the yacht had a radio room onboard. But on top of that, I had worked this very ship on the air back in 2005 when I was living in Texas at the time.

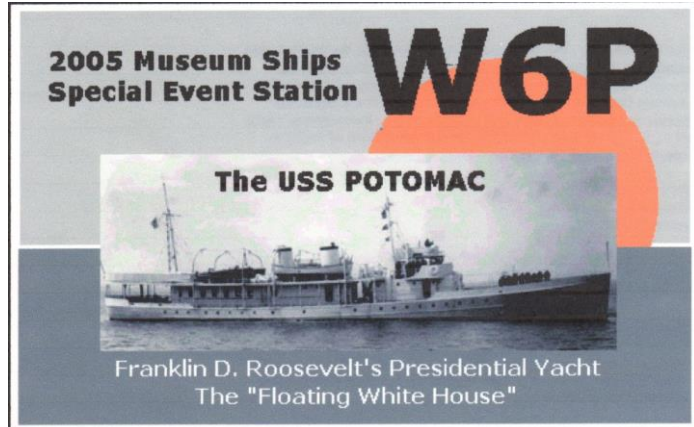


Me with the USS Potomac in the background. I'm holding the QSL card that confirmed my contact with this ship back in 2005.





The radio room of the USS Potomac. Among the pieces on the right is a CRV-46156 receiver with an original Navy Department tag. The smaller radio to the left is a Kenwood TS-440, which is likely the radio used to make a QSO with me on the Ham bands. Note the hand key farther on the left.

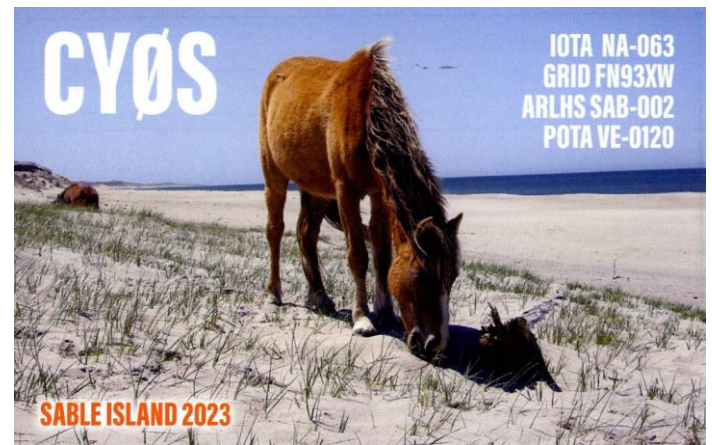


Here's the QSL Card that confirms my 20M SSB contact with the ship in 2005.

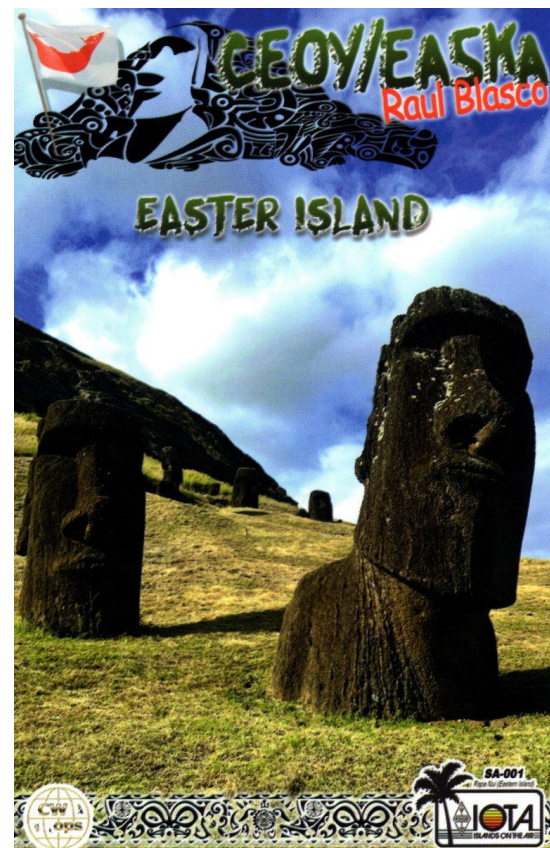
[The USS Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club](#) activates the ship during [Museum Ships Weekend](#). This event during June sees scores of ships around the world get on the air to make contacts with thousands of Amateur Radio operators.

On our visit this particular day we sailed on a three hour tour around San Francisco Bay passing by the Bay Bridge, Alameda, Alcatraz Island, Angel Island, Treasure Island and San Francisco. We got close to the Golden Gate Bridge but could not see it due to heavy fog there. But overall the conditions were terrific!

## QSL Card Inbox



I worked the [CYOS Sable Island DXpedition](#) team on 5 different bands (40M, 30M, 17M, 15M and 10M) and 3 different modes (CW, SSB and FT8). The contact on 10M happened from my home station.



I worked Raul (EA5KA) during his visit to [Easter Island](#) in the Pacific Ocean where he operated as CE0Y/EA5KA. This QSL card confirms contacts on new bands on 30M and 17M, both using CW.

## QSL Card Inbox (Continued)



I had confirmed the [Ducie Island](#), also in the Pacific, during previous DXpeditions. But I picked up a new band and mode while working VP6A on 17M and 30M using CW and FT8. Note the [Radio In a Box](#) landing craft on the beach. The future of many DXpeditions?

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

### THE VOMARC WIRELESS

#### VOLUME 27 EDITION 11

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

*"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler*

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**Breakfast Nets** are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

[Eileen@vom.com](mailto:Eileen@vom.com)

—Or—

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

## ACS

### NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## VOMARC

### NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	ED	W1EJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

## VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2023

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.